

Claims:

1. A method of using a salivary biomarker to differentially diagnose carcinoma of the breast in a human test subject, said method comprising:
providing a salivary secretion specimen from a human subject to provide an individual salivary biomarker diagnostic for carcinoma of the breast, said biomarker soluble in said salivary secretion and selected from the group consisting of cancer antigen 15-3, tumor suppressor oncogene protein 53, oncogene c-erbB-2 and combinations thereof;
using the salivary secretion concentration of said individual biomarker to compare with a biomarker reference panel, said reference panel including biomarker constituents;
and
differentially identifying the diagnosis for said subject indicated by said comparison.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said biomarker reference comprises a constituent panel developed using malignant tumor, benign tumor and control group populations.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said individual biomarker is one constituent of a biomarker panel, said panel including at least one of cancer antigen 15-3, tumor suppressor oncogene protein 53 and oncogene c-erbB-2.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said reference biomarker constituent panel includes value ranges for each said constituent.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein the presence of at least one of oncogene c-erbB-2 and proteinaceous expressions of said oncogene identifies the said subject having a malignant breast carcinoma.
6. The method of claim 3 wherein each said constituent is associated with a concentration value.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said concentration of cancer antigen 15-3 is at least about 100 % higher for said subject having a malignant breast tumor than said subject having a benign tumor.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein said concentration of oncogene protein 53 is at least about 25% lower for said subject having a malignant breast tumor than said subject having a benign tumor.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said differential identification is an adjunct to a primary diagnostic method of testing said subject for carcinoma of the breast.

10. A post-operative method of monitoring the inhibition of tumor growth, said method comprising:

providing a human test subject, said subject post-operative to the removal of a malignant tumor;

providing a salivary secretion specimen from said subject to develop a post-operative biomarker panel, said panel having constituents selected from the group consisting of cancer antigen 15-3, tumor suppressor oncogene protein 53, oncogene c-erbB-2 and combinations thereof;

using said post-operative biomarker panel to compare with a pre-operative biomarker reference panel for said subject; and

determining the post-operative inhibition of breast malignancy by monitoring at least one constituent of said biomarker panels.

11. The method of claim 10 further including administering a chemotherapeutic regimen to said subject post-operatively.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein one said chemotherapy includes a therapeutic dose of cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and fluorouracil.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein said pre-operative and said post-operative panels include a c-erbB-2 biomarker constituent.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein said pre-operative and said post-operative panels include a tumor suppressor oncogene protein 53 biomarker constituent.

15. A method of using the concentration of an endogenously encoded protein to diagnose carcinoma of the breast, said method comprising:

providing a salivary secretion specimen from a human test subject to provide an individual protein biomarker diagnostic for carcinoma of the breast, said biomarker in said salivary secretion and selected from the group consisting of cancer antigen 15-3, tumor suppressor oncogene protein 53, oncogene c-erbB-2 and combinations thereof;

using said salivary secretion and said individual protein biomarker to compare with a reference protein concentration; and

determining an elevated concentration of said individual protein biomarker over said reference protein to diagnose said subject.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said biomarker protein is one constituent of an individual biomarker panel.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein said biomarker protein is cancer antigen 15-3.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein said biomarker protein is an expression of oncogene c-erbB-2.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein said reference protein is developed for each of a malignant tumor, benign tumor and control group population.

20. The method of Claim 15 wherein said reference protein is one constituent of a panel.